

GROUT MUSEUM DISTRICT | TOUCH IT. SEE IT. FEEL IT.

# COLLECTIONS

MARCH - MAY 2025  
VOL. XCVII NO. 4



## IN THIS ISSUE

Sipping on History  
with Margaret

Who We Are: Celebrations  
Exhibit Now Open

## NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: MARDI GRAS TRIVIA

*March 1 Fundraiser! Details on reverse.*

National Astronomy Day  
at the Imaginarium



DETAILS INSIDE!



EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY



**D-DAY: FROM NORMANDY TO BERLIN**  
ON DISPLAY THROUGH MAY 31, 2025

2024 marked the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings at Normandy in northern France.

Many Iowans were involved in those landings, the liberation of Europe and the ending of the Holocaust. Nearly 227,000 Iowans served in the war and almost 8,400 died.

In commemoration of that struggle for liberty, the exhibit showcases the D-Day landings and the year-long struggle through northern Europe.



**BLACK STORIES COLLECTIVE**  
**ON THE BALLOT: CEDAR VALLEY AFRICAN AMERICANS IN POLITICS**  
ON DISPLAY THROUGH OCTOBER 18, 2025

Learn about local African American politicians throughout the history of the Cedar Valley and their impact on the political landscape. This installment will include artifacts from the Museum's Collection and the community, newspaper clippings, Voices of Iowa Black Stories Collective interviews, archival photographs and more.

*Pictured Above: Iowa Association of Colored Women's Clubs photo taken in 1903 - Wikimedia Commons*



NEW EXHIBIT

WHO WE ARE: CELEBRATIONS

ON DISPLAY THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2026 | GROUT MUSEUM

Visit the Museum's second installment of the ongoing Bosnian exhibit series "Who We Are: Celebrations."

Learn about traditional Bosnian clothing such as Dimije/Shalvari, food like Bosanska Kafa (Bosnian Coffee), and local organizations like the Krajišnik Soccer Club and the K.U.D Kolo Dance Troupe.

View photographs and items from the Museum's Collection and from area community members. Clips from local event Krajiški Teferič will also be on display.

*Pictured Above: Dance troupe performing a traditional kolo dance at Krajiški Teferič on August 16, 2024*

**WORLD'S GREATEST Spring Break FOR KIDS**

March 17 - 21, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Grout/SBIVM & Imaginarium  
Russell House Open Tuesday-Thursday (hours TBD)  
Sponsored by: RJ McElroy Trust

This Spring Break week, for \$1 per child and each accompanying adult, visit award-winning, cultural arts and recreational attractions right in your own back yard! Planetarium shows are an additional \$1 per person.

Visit [gmdistrict.org/calendar](http://gmdistrict.org/calendar) for all of the details!

**SPRING BREAK MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL: FAMILY/GRANDPARENT MEMBERSHIPS ONLY \$95 (NOT APPLICABLE FOR RENEWALS OF CURRENT MEMBERS)**

SIPPING ON HISTORY with Margaret

Happy 2025 one and all! I hope you were all able to enjoy the holiday season and spend it how you needed, whether that was with loved ones or getting much-needed rest. I managed to do both and feel invigorated and focused to tackle the next six months of our fiscal year.

The staff continue to do amazing things, as you will see throughout this newsletter. As we move into the second half of the year, we are doing a deep dive into finances to identify any gaps and develop strategies to meet those needs. The biggest gap that remains a continued concern is the loss of the voter-approved levy due to changes in state legislation.

When the legislature passed HF718, it consolidated the Cultural and Scientific Facility levy with several other levies and set a maximum levy rate that cities are allowed to collect. The voters of Waterloo passed the Cultural and Scientific Facilities levy in 2015, in which 27 cent per \$1,000 value on property taxes was designated to support the Grout Museum District. HF718 eliminated this designation, and the money collected now goes to the General Fund for the city. Waterloo's city budget now determines what, if any, portion of funding the Grout receives.

This change has already negatively impacted the museum's operations. Since its passage in 2015, the levy supplied an average of \$660,000 annually, roughly 40% of the operating budget. These funds covered utilities, general maintenance, and other overhead expenses that are not typically funded through other revenue streams. Since HF718 passed, there has been a \$40,000 reduction in support from the city.

This reduction means that there are three staff positions that are unfilled and will remain unfilled. A few members of the staff also had their hours reduced as well. Funding that would support growth in programs or capital improvements now must be diverted to meet our overhead expenses. Any further reductions would have even more serious negative consequences for the organization.

The Trustees, the finance director, and I are actively developing strategies to contend with these changes, but we need the entire Grout community's help in this endeavor. Your donations and memberships are more vital than ever. When you bring your family and friends to our museums, our events, and other programming, you help us expand our reach and share our value. Please continue to support us in our fundraising efforts and spread the word of our impact on the Cedar Valley community. I am also finalizing letters of support that citizens can send to government officials about HF718 and its impact. More information regarding that will follow.

We are deeply grateful for the support you all provide to the Grout Museum. Thank you, friends. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, thoughts, strategies, or encouragement. I love hearing from you.

*Margaret Moye*

Grout Museum District Executive Director

SPRING PROGRAMS

REGISTER AT: [GMDISTRICT.ORG/CALENDAR](http://GMDISTRICT.ORG/CALENDAR)

SENSORY FRIENDLY PLANETARIUM SHOWS

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH  
9:30 AM | AGES 5 & UP | \$2  
NORRIS CORSON FAMILY PLANETARIUM

Join us for a sensory friendly planetarium experience. Planetarium lights will be dimmed, sound muted, and the door will remain open to allow guests the freedom to move around.

UNBIRTHDAY TEA PARTY

APRIL 26, 2025  
10 AM | SNOWDEN HOUSE  
\$12 MEMBERS, \$18 NON-MEMBERS

Join Museum Staff for an *Alice in Wonderland* themed tea party with treats, crafts, and more!

NATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY

MAY 3, 2025  
7-9:30 PM | IMAGINARIUM  
FREE W/ A \$5 DONATION

Kick off the 2025 Star Party season with the Grout Museum and the Black Hawk Astronomy Club! Explore the wonders of the universe in our Mobile Star Lab, engage in astronomy-themed crafts and activities, and step outside to gaze at the stars and moon through telescopes.

MEMORIAL DAY at the SBIVM

MAY 26, 2025  
11 AM-3 PM | SBIVM  
VETERANS FREE

Join us at the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum for special Monday hours and free admission for Veterans.

STAR PARTY

MAY 31, 2025  
9-10:30 PM | PRAIRIE GROVE PARK  
FREE ADMISSION

Experience the wonders of the night sky with the Grout Museum and the Black Hawk Astronomy Club on the last Saturday of each month.

This free event invites stargazers of all ages to explore the night sky through telescopes provided by the hosts. Have a telescope of your own? Bring it along and share in the celestial adventure!

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Visit [gmdistrict.org/calendar](http://gmdistrict.org/calendar) to register for this summer's day or week long camps.





Grout Museum District  
503 South St.  
Waterloo, IA 50701

SPRING 2025



# NIGHT *at the* MUSEUM *Mardi Gras Trivia*

A FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY THE  
GROUT MUSEUM DISTRICT!

March 1, 2025 | Doors Open at 5pm  
Tickets: \$50/Person or \$350/Table

Join the Grout Museum District for a night of fun trivia, a live and silent auction, cash bar, and a heavy hors d'oeuvres New Orleans inspired buffet!

Food provided by buffet sponsors Cappella Magna, Cousin's Food & Catering, Montage, Rodney's Kitchen, Steamboat Gardens, and more.

**PURCHASE TICKETS:**  
[GMDISTRICT.ORG/MARDIGRAS](http://GMDISTRICT.ORG/MARDIGRAS)

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL PRODUCE IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA



BLACK HAWK COUNTY  
GAMING ASSOCIATION



319.234.6357 | [GMDistrict.org](http://GMDistrict.org)

Paid for, in part, by the Experience Waterloo Hotel Motel Tax.